



LAW OFFICES  
**SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC**  
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20037-3213  
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7060  
FACSIMILE (202) 293-7860  
www.sughrue.com

#18  
B. Webb  
3/30/01

March 26, 2001

**BOX CPA**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: Application of Takahiko, ISHIGURO, Juichi SAITO, Tetsuya ISHIZUKA  
METHOD OF ASSAY OF TARGET NUCLEIC ACID  
Our Ref: Q54969

Dear Sir:

This is a request for filing a Continuation Application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (continued prosecution application (CPA)) of pending prior Application No. 09/345,761 filed on July 01, 1999 of Takahiko, ISHIGURO, Juichi SAITO, Tetsuya ISHIZUKA entitled METHOD OF ASSAY OF TARGET NUCLEIC ACID.

This application is being filed under 37 CFR § 1.53(d). The prior application, in which no payment of the issue fee, abandonment, or termination of proceedings has occurred, is hereby expressly abandoned as of the filing date of this new application. It is understood that secrecy under 35 USC § 122 is hereby waived to the extent that if information or access is available to any one of the applications in the file jacket, be it either this application or a prior application in the same file jacket, the Patent and Trademark Office may provide similar information or access to all the other applications in the same file jacket.

The prior application is assigned to Group Art Unit 1655.

A Preliminary Amendment is being submitted herewith.

The power of attorney appears in the original papers of the prior application.

Priority is claimed from July 01, 1998 based on JP Application No. 10-186434. The priority document(s) were filed in parent Application No. 09/345,761.

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

|                              |           |   |           |   |   |         |   |          |
|------------------------------|-----------|---|-----------|---|---|---------|---|----------|
| Total claims                 | <u>21</u> | - | <u>20</u> | = | x | \$18.00 | = | \$18.00  |
| Independent claims           | <u>1</u>  | - | <u>3</u>  | = | x | \$80.00 | = | \$0.00   |
| Base Fee                     |           |   |           |   |   |         |   | \$710.00 |
| Multiple Dependent Claim Fee |           |   |           |   |   |         |   | \$0.00   |

**TOTAL FILING FEE**

You are authorized to charge the statutory fee of \$728.00 to Deposit Account No. 4880. You are also directed and authorized to charge or credit any difference overpayment to

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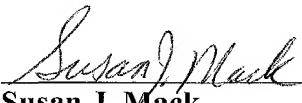
**BOX CPA  
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Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 and any petitions for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

A Petition and payment for an extension of time is being filed concurrently herewith in Application No. 09/345,761. You are authorized to charge the statutory fee of \$110.00 to Deposit No. 19-4880. The application is timely filed.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK  
& SEAS, PLLC

  
**Susan J. Mack**  
Registration No. 30,951